



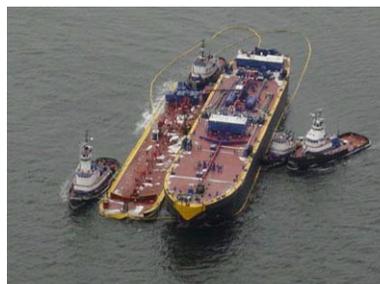
**A**s a steward of our nation's coastal and marine environments, NOAA addresses immediate and long-term environmental threats through its Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). Scientists are on call around-the-clock to provide the U.S. Coast Guard and other emergency responders with critical information to help minimize environmental damage caused by oil and hazardous chemical spills. Environmental experts assess ecosystems compromised by historic or ongoing contamination and work with other organizations to conduct remediation, restoration, and monitoring of critical natural resources.

### Protecting and Restoring Connecticut's Coastal and Marine Areas

NOAA trust resources in Connecticut include 253 miles of coastline bordering Long Island Sound that support a diversity of coastal habitats and provide recreational and economic benefits for millions of people. The state's long history of industrial development in the coastal zone and along the Connecticut River has left a legacy of hazardous waste sites. The Port of New Haven has been a busy petroleum port for New England since World War II. Fuel storage and transfer facilities on Long Island also pose a threat of oil and chemical spills. The state map on the reverse page shows key response and restoration activities in the past year.

### Emergency Response

On February 14, 2003, the barge *Energy 5501* struck bottom two miles south of Norwalk in Long Island Sound. Approximately 2,000 gallons of home heating oil spilled from the vessel, threatening several large embayments with tidal flats and salt marshes that support waterfowl and shellfish. NOAA provided trajectory and weather updates, information on resources at risk, oil weathering predictions, and overflight assessments. The information NOAA provided was used to make key response decisions, including the relocation of the barge into a safe harbor because of threatening blizzard snowfall and gale-force winds.



*Barge Energy 5501*

### Assessment and Restoration

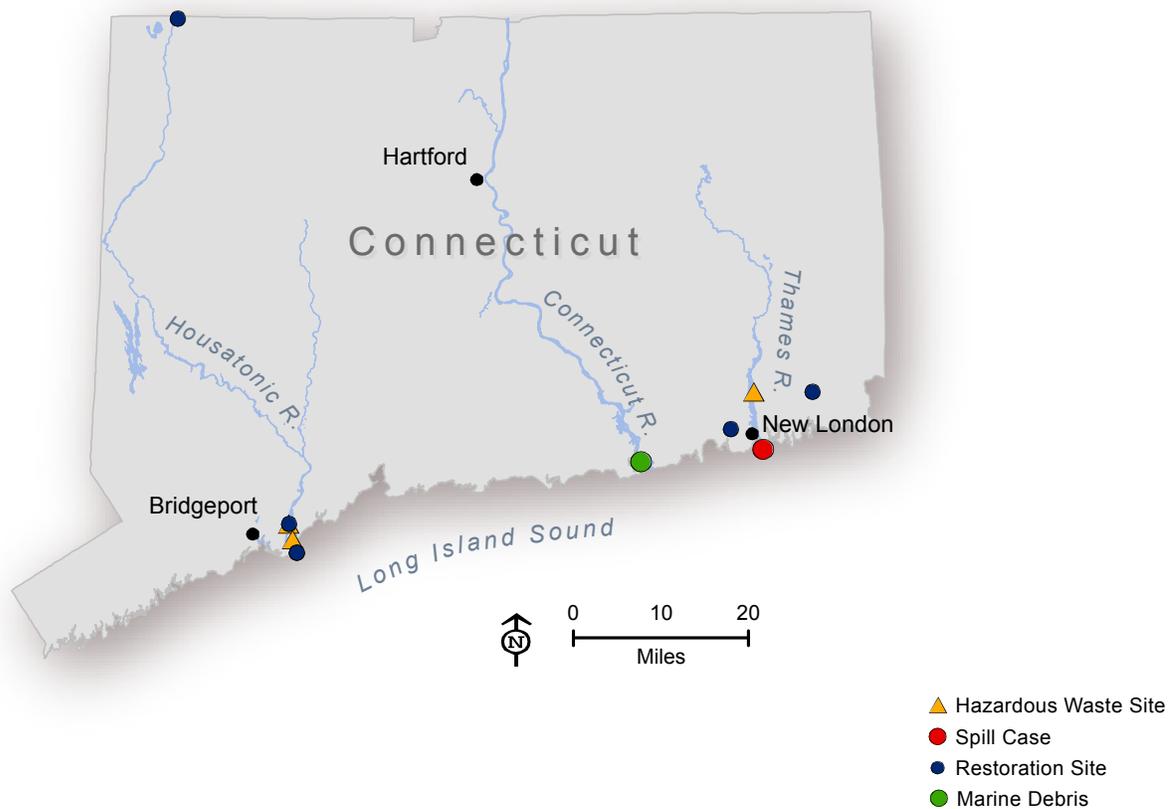
The 1992 *RTC 380* oil spill in Long Island Sound, New London, damaged habitat for river herring, which serve as forage species for striped bass, cod, and bluefish. NOAA worked with the town of Waterford, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Save the Sound, and the Connecticut Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership to construct a steep pass fishway at Jordon Cove. The fishway will help restore river herring runs to an approximately eight-acre impoundment, three stream miles, and high quality spawning habitat.

### Research

NOAA collaborates with other federal, state, and local programs to develop innovative approaches to protecting marine and estuarine environments through research and synthesis of information. The Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) brings together the resources of a research-oriented university and the field expertise of OR&R to conduct and oversee basic and applied research, conduct outreach, and encourage strategic partnerships in spill response, assessment, and restoration.



*RTC 380 Oil Spill site, Long Island Sound, New London*




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*NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment*

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**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,  
 please call (301) 713-2989 or visit our Web site at  
[response.restoration.noaa.gov](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov)**

